

# STROGANOV MINYEIAS

APRIL

## Side A



### Row 1

**April 1:** At the age of 12 **Saint Mary of Egypt** left her home to live in Alexandria. She made a living through prostitution for 17 years until she traveled to Jerusalem where she resumed her occupation. She is believed to have received a vision of the Mother of God instructing her to renounce her ways and to cross the river Jordon into the desert. Saint Mary was discovered after 47 years by a monk named Zosimas who gave her his cloak to cover her nakedness and offered her communion. She asked that he return in one year to offer her communion again but she died before their meeting. Zosimas, who came across her body, prayed for help in burying her and was answered in the form of a great lion who appeared and dug a deep grave.

**April 1: Saint Euthymius of Suzdal** was born in 1316 and lived in a monastery until 1352, when Prince Boris sought to establish a men's monastery in his city. Saint Euthymius was sent to the site and established a thriving monastery where he stayed until his death in 1404. His relics were uncovered in 1507 and discovered to be incorrupt.

**April 2: Saint Titus the Wonderworker** pursued asceticism in the ninth century at the Studion monastery near Constantinople. Passionate in faith, he stood up for the Orthodox veneration of icons during the iconoclastic period. He is said to have had the gift of wonderworking, performing many miracles and healings.

**April 2: Saints Amphianus and Edesius** were brothers who lived in the home of the governor of Lycia in at the end of the 3rd century. The brothers converted to Christianity after they were sent to further their education in the sciences. Amphianus was arrested when he attempted to prevent the city prefect of Caesarea from offering a sacrifice. He was drowned at sea. Edesius was arrested later and sent to labor in the copper mines. There he stayed for a while but gained his freedom and denounced the governor Hierokles Alexandria. Edesius was rearrested and sentenced to drowning.

**April 3: Saint Nicetas the Confessor of Medikion** was raised by his grandmother in the 9th century. After seven years of study at the Mydecia monastery he was ordained presbyter and was offered the title of igumen, or monastic leader. He declined, choosing instead to appoint an elder monk. Nicetas did take on the role of igumen later in life and denounced the emperor Leo during the iconoclastic period. Nicetas was arrested and imprisoned for six years for this.

**April 3: Unknown Martyr.** This figure is translated as Saint Agatha; however, according to Museum sources, there is no saint listed by that name celebrated on April 3.

**April 3:** There is little information on **Saint Irene** in Museum sources. All that is currently known is that she was a martyr.



## Row 2

**April 4: Saint Joseph the Hymnographer** was born in Sicily and went to the monastery of Latomos. He opposed Emperor Leo during the Iconoclastic movement in the early 9th century and was consequently arrested and imprisoned for six years. It is said that he received a vision of Saint Nicholas of Myra, who gave him a paper scroll and told him to eat it. He became known thereafter as a composer of hymns.

**April 4: Saint George of Mount Maleon** was a 9th century monk who became a well-known ascetic and wonderworker.

**April 4: Saint Zosimas of Vorbozomsk** was the founder of the monastery of the Annunciation of the Mother of God in the 15th century. The monastery was located on an island on Lake Vorbozoma.

**April 5: Saints Theodulus and Agathopous** were two Christian brothers who lived during the reigns of Emperors Diocletian and Maximian. Faustinus, the governor of Thessalonica, had the two arrested for preaching Christianity and sentenced them to be drowned at sea.

**April 6: Saint Eutychius of Constantinople** attended the Fifth Ecumenical Council and impressed the Patriarch Saint Menas who named Eutychius as his likely successor. Saint Eutychius was appointed to the Patriarchal throne in 552. During his reign, there was a philosophical movement called the Aphthartodocetism, or Imperishability, that was later deemed to be heretical. Saint Eutychius denounced Aphthartodocetism in opposition to the Emperor Justinian, who had the saint arrested and exiled.

**April 7: Saint George, Bishop of Mytilene**, lived during the reign of Leo the Isaurian who was an iconoclast. Saint George was arrested and imprisoned for denouncing the iconoclastic movement. He was later released under the reign of the Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitos and was said to have the gift of wonderworking. He was able to cast out evil spirits and heal incurable diseases. Saint George was rearrested and banished during the reign of Leo the Armenian.

**April 8: Saints Herodion, Agabus, Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes**, and those with them. These saints were among the Apostles of the Seventy. Saint Herodion was preaching when a mob came and stoned him and stabbed him, but when the mob left, he miraculously healed. Saint Agabus was given the gift of prophecy and predicted famine during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Saints Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon, and Hermes were all bishops in major cities. All of these saints were arrested and killed for the faith.



**April 8: Saint Celestine** was the Bishop of Rome from 422-432. During his reign he opposed a philosophical movement now called the Nestorius Heresy which was largely concerned with the true nature of Christ.



### Row 3

**April 9: Saint Euphrosyne of Paphlagonia** was a 4th century Christian. She destroyed a pagan temple which the emperor Julian revered. Euphrosyne was arrested and later beheaded on the direct orders of the emperor. A church was built over the saint's grave in the late 4th century.

**April 10: Saints Terence and Pompeius** were arrested with forty other Christians for practicing Christianity. The governor of Africa, Fortunianus, under the command of Emperor Decius, tried to force Saints Terence and Pompeius to renounce their faith. The two were then made to watch the beheading of the 40 others arrested with them and then chained in a cell filled with poisonous snakes. Miraculously the snakes did not bite the saints, and the governor had them beheaded.

**April 11: Saint Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum**, was 1st century Christian and a disciple of the Apostle John. He was arrested during the reign of Emperor Nero and was thrown into a red hot cauldron where he died in the year 68. His body was secretly buried by Christians and his tomb became a site of miracles and healings.

**April 12: Saint Zeno** became Bishop of Verona in the 4th century during the philosophical movement now known as the Arian Heresy. He wrote many letters in opposition to the emperors Constantius and Valens and others who followed the Arian beliefs.

**April 12: Saint Basil, Bishop of Caesarea**, lived during the 4th century. The saint refused to cooperate with authorities during the iconoclastic movement and continued to maintain the icon tradition within his diocese.

**April 13: Saint Artemon of Laodicea**, a 3rd century Christian, became a deacon at a young age and was ordained into the priesthood 28 years later. When Diocletian came to power, he ordered Saint Artemon be taken to a temple that he destroyed and offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Artemon refused and was then tortured and eventually beheaded.

**April 14: Saint Martin the Confessor** was Bishop of Rome in 7th century during a philosophical movement known as the Monothelite heresy which was followed by both the Emperor Constans and Patriarch Paul of Constantinople. Martin denounced the movement and was subsequently arrested and exiled.

**April 14: Saints Anthony, John, and Eustathius** were brothers living in 14th century Lithuania. They were baptized in 1346 when the Great Prince Olgerd married an Orthodox princess named Maria

Yaroslavana. When Maria died, the Prince renounced his Christian faith and reverted the state religion back to pagan fire-worship. The three brothers were discovered as Christians and were imprisoned and later executed.

**April 15: Saints Aristarchus, Pudens, and Trophimus of the Seventy.** Saint Aristarchus was Bishop of Apamea, Syria; he is mentioned by name in the Book of Acts and in the Epistles as a companion of Saint Paul. Saint Pudens was a member of the Roman Senate; he is also mentioned in the Epistles and his house was converted into a church. Saint Trophimus was a disciple and companion of the Apostle Paul, and is mentioned in the Book of Acts and Epistles. These three saints were martyred with 70 others in the 1st century.



#### Row 4

**April 16: Saints Irene, Agape, and Chionia of Thessalonica** were Christian sisters living in the early 4th Century. They were arrested during the reign of the emperor Diocletian. Saints Agape and Chionia were killed by fire and Irene was ordered to be brought to serve in a brothel. As soldiers led Irene down the road, two unknown soldiers brought false orders that she was to be brought instead to a mountain top and left there. The saint was later shot with an arrow and died in the year 304.

**April 16:** In the year 258, **Saint Leonidas of Corinth** was thrown into the ocean with seven other Christians, but instead of sinking they reportedly walked on the water. The executioners recaptured the saints, tied stones round their necks, and tossed them back in the ocean to drown. The other saints martyred alongside Leonidas were Charissa, Nike, Galina, Kalisa, Nunekhia, Basilissa, and Theodora.

**April 17: Saint Simeon, Bishop of Persia,** was an early 4th century Christian who became Bishop of Persia. He was arrested and brought before Emperor Sapor II who had the saint executed in the year 344.

**April 17: Saint Agapetas** became the Bishop of Rome in 535. He performed many miracles during his lifetime. He participated in a local council in Constantinople that concerned a philosophical argument regarding the body of Christ.

**April 17: Saint Zosimas of Solovetsky** traveled to the Solovki islands in 1436 with another hermit named Saint Herman. There the two built a community of ascetics and built a small church dedicated to the Transfiguration. This was the beginning of the great Solovetsky Monastery.

**April 17: The Repose of Saint Zosimas.** Saint Zosimas built the church of the Transfiguration that later developed into the Solovetsky Monastery. After constructing the church, he prepared a grave for himself and died shortly thereafter on April 17, 1478. A chapel was built over his relics and many miracles occurred at the monastery that were attributed to Zosimas.



**April 17: Saint Acacius, Bishop of Melitene**, was born and raised in a pious Orthodox family and was ordained deacon and then into the priesthood at a young age. After the death of the previous bishop, he took control of the throne of Melitene. He participated in the Third Ecumenical Council in 431 where he defended the Orthodox teaching of the Two Natures of the Savior. Saint Acacius died in the year 435.

## Side B



## Row 1

**April 18: Saint John of Decapolis** was born at the end of the 8th century and witnessed the persecution of iconodules, supporters of iconography, by Leo the Armenian in the early 9th century. In spite of the persecutions, Saint John fearlessly defended the tradition of icon veneration for several years and died around the year 820.

**April 18: Saint Cosmas** was Bishop of Chalcedon in the 9th century and defended the tradition of icon veneration during the iconoclastic movement of Leo the Armenian. He declined to remove icons from the church and was subsequently arrested and imprisoned.

**April 19: Saint John of the Ancient Caves** was an 8th century monk in the Lavra of Saint Chariton, which was the oldest monastery in Palestine. Saint John is remembered for his strict asceticism.

**April 20: Saint Theodore Trichinas** left his home and family to attend a monastery in Thrace. He wore a hair-shirt, from which he drew his name "Trichinas," or the "Hair-Shirt Wearer." He also slept on a rock so that he would not succumb to bodily comfort. He was given the gift of wonderworking and healing.

**April 20: Saint Alexander, Abbot of Oshevensk**, founded the Oshevensk Dormition Monastery in the late 15th century. In the 17th century, Saint Alexander was said to have appeared to the monk Saint Diodorus and instructed him to go fishing with his brothers to procure food for the monastery.

**April 21: Saint Januarius** and those with him—Saint Januarius and the deacons Proculus, Sossius and Faustus, Desiderius the Reader, Eutychius and Acution—were martyred in 305. Christians came to take the bodies and each martyr was buried in a separate city.

**April 21: Saint Faustus** was martyred alongside Saints Januarius and several others in the year 305. It is unclear why Faustus is separated from Januarius and the others on this minyeia.

**April 21: Saint Maximian** was Patriarch of Constantinople in the 5th century. He practiced strict asceticism throughout his life and used his inheritance to provide burial services for the less fortunate.

**April 21: Saint Theodore of Perge** was a 2nd century Christian who was conscripted into the Roman Army with several others including Saints Dioscorus, Socrates, and Dionysius. All were discovered to be Christians and were arrested, tortured, and executed.

**April 22: Saint Theodore of Syketen** was born in the mid-6th century. When he was ten, he became ill and was brought to the church of Saint John the Baptist where he was reportedly healed by two drops of water that fell from the dome of the temple. He was ordained to the priesthood at the age of 17 and became Bishop of Anastasiopolis sometime later. Theodore is remembered as a wonderworker and a healer.



## Row 2

**April 23: Saint George** was a Christian military commander during the reign of Emperor Diocletian, who demanded that all soldiers make sacrifices to Pagan gods or else suffer greatly. George freed his slaves and distributed his wealth to the needy before denouncing the emperor and declaring himself a Christian. He was offered many bribes and endured many torments but never once waived in his faith. Saint George died in the year 303 and became one of the most renowned military saints. The story of Saint George slaying a dragon to save a town can be traced back to the 6th century.

**April 24: Saint Elizabeth of Constantinople** was a Christian who lived sometime between the 6th and the 9th centuries. She is remembered as a wonderworker who practiced strict asceticism.

**April 24: Saint Sabbas Stratelates** served under the Roman emperor Aurelian (270-275) as the military commander, or the rank of stratelites. He is said to have had gifts of wonderworking, healing the sick, and casting out demons. When he was denounced as a Christian in the year 272, he was tortured and drowned.

**April 25: Saint Mark the Evangelist** was one of the 12 followers of Christ and is credited with writing one of the four Gospels chronicling the life and teachings of Jesus. His book was written for Gentile, or non-Jewish, Christians and his focus was on the Miracles worked by Christ and through the Apostles.

**April 25: Saint Sylvester of Obnora** lived as a hermit along a river where he was discovered in a cell by a traveler who spread word of the ascetic monk. A community of monks gathered with Saint Sylvester and a monastery was established.

**April 25: Saint Neon at Nicomedia** is celebrated on April 24, it is unclear why the saint is featured on April 25 on this minyeia. Saint Neon was converted to Christianity alongside 40 others after witnessing the martyrdom of Saint George. The 40 saints confessed their faith and were beheaded.

**April 25: Saint Alexandra, Empress of Rome**, is celebrated on April 23; it is unclear why she is featured on April 25 on this minyeia. Saint Alexandra was the wife of Diocletian (284-305). She was converted to



Christianity after witnessing the martyrdom of Saint George. In the hagiography of Saint George her death takes place on the same day; however her own hagiography places her death years later.



### Row 3

**April 26: The Hieromartyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea**, lived at the beginning of the 4th century. He led a pious life and encouraged suffering for Christ during the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Lucinius.

**April 26: Saint Stephen, Bishop of Perm**, and his Repose. Saint Stephen was born around the year 1340 and became a monk at a very young age. He traveled to remote regions in Russia to preach Christianity and build churches. He is pictured again just after this to commemorate his death. Saint Stephen died in the year 1395 while visiting Moscow. His body was placed in the Moscow Kremlin despite the wishes of the Komi people of Perm who he had converted to Christianity.

**April 27: Saint Simeon, son of Saint Joseph**, is one of the Twelve Apostles. In the year 82, he was condemned by the emperor Domitian to drink poison which was taken from scorpions, snakes, and venomous spiders, but was unharmed by the mixture. Simeon was later sentenced to death by fire but again survived. He was subjected to many punishments until he was crucified in the year 98.

**April 28: Saints Jason of Tarsus and Sosipater of Patra** were of the 70 apostles mentioned in the Book of Acts. Both were direct disciples of Saint Paul and traveled west to preach Christianity. They built a church on an island in the Ionian Sea and were subsequently arrested by the governor. The governor began arresting, torturing, and executing all of those who claimed to be Christian including his own daughter. The governor and many of his soldiers were drowned while traveling to an adjacent island. His successor released the Christians after seeing the Saints Jason and Sosipater survive after being cast into boiling tar.

April 28: Saints Maximus, Dada, and Quintilian of Dorostolum were three Christian brothers who refused to offer sacrifices to pagan Gods. They were arrested and beheaded during the reign of Diocletian (284-305).



## Row 4

**April 29: Nine Martyrs at Cyzicus: Saints Thaumasius, Theognes, Rufus, Antipater, Theostichus, Artemas, Magnus, Theodotus, and Philemon** [written: Magn, Feognid, Favmasiy, Feodot, Artema, Feostikh, Filimon, Rut, and Antipatr]. These nine saints were beheaded at the end of the 3rd Century for practicing Christianity. After the Edict of Milan their bodies were moved to a church built in their honor.

**April 29: Saint Memnon the Wonderworker** was an ascetic living in the Egyptian desert. He became the igumen, or leader, at one of the Egyptian monasteries and is said to have had the gift of wonderworking.

**April 30: Saint James the Apostle** was the brother of Saint John the Theologian. After the Descent of the Holy Spirit James Preached Christianity in Spain and later in Jerusalem. He was arrested by Herrod Agrippa (40-44) and sentenced to beheading. Saint James was the first of the Apostles to be martyred.

**April 30: Saint Nikita, Bishop of Novgorod** and the finding of his Relics. Saint Nikita was bishop of Novgorod for 13 years before he died in 1109. He was glorified as a saint during the reign of Tsar Ivan Vasilevich, and his holy relics, dressed in full vestments, were uncovered in 1558. His relics now rest in the Cathedral of the Holy Apostle Philip of Novgorod.